

Grand jury hands down new indictment against Donahue in sex case

John Clark Donahue, founder and former artistic director of the Minnesota Children's Theatre, has been indicted by a Hennepin County grand jury on one charge of second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a teen-age boy.

Donahue previously had been charged with six counts of having sexual contact with three other boys at the theater.

Donahue made a brief appearance in court Wednesday but entered no plea to the additional charge. He was taken into custody by Hennepin County deputies for booking but was to be released again on the \$150,000 bond he had posted in connection with the other cases.

Hennepin County District Judge Charles Porter Jr. set Sept. 24 for Donahue's next court appearance. That also is the date for Donahue's omnibus hearing on the other charges.

The indictment said that between January and April 1982, Donahue, who was in a position of authority over the boy, who now is 17, used that authority to cause the youth to submit to sexual contact.

The incident allegedly took place in Donahue's home.

The indictment lists the names of 44 witnesses called by the grand jury. Included was Sarah Lawless, who resigned in June as executive director of the Children's Theatre Company to become executive director of the Denver Center Theater in Colorado, and Wayne Jennings, the school's education director.

Other witnesses included students and parents.

Donahue is the second person to be indicted by the grand jury investigating alleged child sexual abuse at Children's Theatre.

Last month, Stephen Adamczak, 31, 3401 Colfax Av. S., a former sound technician at the theater, was indicted for criminal sexual conduct involving two girls, ages 13 and 14.

The grand jury began its investigation July 31, and the investigation is continuing, said Bill Edwards, chief of the Hennepin County Criminal Division.

County Attorney Tom Johnson said it is the investigation is expected to be



John Clark Donahue

finished within two weeks.

Two men associated with the theater, William Joseph Herren, 28, a former dance teacher at the school, and Shaun Timothy McNellis, 23, a former student and apprentice of the theater school, also face charges of having sexual contact with students at the school.

Donahue's trial is set for Oct. 1.

Clipped By:

